

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto are Forms PTO/SB/08A (two sheets) and PTO/SB/08B (five sheets) listing documents believed to be relevant to the subject application. It is respectfully requested that the examiner consider these documents and an initialed copy of each form be returned to the undersigned.

- 1. This disclosure statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information, as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), exists.
- 2. It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98, and 1.607(c), and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures §§ 609 and 2001.06(d). If for some reason the examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

- 3. A copy of each document listed in the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B is enclosed. Some of the documents may have markings thereon. No significance should be attached to the markings.
 - 4. The enclosed documents are not necessarily prior art.
- 5. Where the information provided for any publication listed in the attached Forms PTO/SB/08B is incomplete, the inventor represented to the undersigned that the inventor has not yet been able to locate such information.
- 6. Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B were submitted concurrently with the subject application. Because certain information and documents were missing from these forms, and because the documents listed in them are also listed in the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, it is respectfully requested that the originally submitted Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be considered withdrawn from consideration.
- 7. With respect to the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A, particular attention is directed primarily toward the following United States patents and published patent applications:

| U. S. Patents | U. S. Published Applications | |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| Des. 434,150 | 2002/0065494 | |
| 4,969,880 | 2002/0115952 | |
| 4,950,483 | 2002/0161346 | |
| 5,636,643 | 2002/0183702 | |
| 6,135,116 | 2003/0040687 | |
| 6,142,982 | 2003/0050594 | |
| | | |

and secondarily toward the following United States patents and published patent applications:

| U. S. Patents | U. S. Published Applications | |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| 5,549,584 | 2002/0068913 | |
| 5,645,081 | 2002/0143286 | |

8. With respect to the attached Forms PTO/SB/08B, particular attention is directed toward each of the publications cited.

OTHER INFORMATION

9. The attention of the examiner is drawn to the following claims of the subject application and the corresponding claims of United States Patent No. 5,636,643, as follows:

| Claim of Subject Application | Claim of U.S. <u>Patent No. 5,636,643</u> |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 5 | <u>5</u> |
| 3 5 6 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 3 |
| 14 | 1 |
| 15 | 3 1 3 1 |
| 16 | 1 |
| 17 | 1 |
| 24 | 1 |
| 25 | 3 |
| 32 | <u>6</u> 7 |
| 33 | |
| 34 | . 8 |
| 35 | |
| 36 | 6 7 8 6 7 |
| 37 | 8 |
| 38 | <u>6</u> |
| 39 | 7 |
| 40 | 8 |
| 48 | <u>11</u> |
| 49 | 12 |

- 10. The attention of the examiner is also drawn to the references cited in United States Patent No. 5,636,643.
- 11. As of the date hereof, United States Patent No. 5,636,643, and United States

 Patent No. 4,969,880, are involved in litigation before the United States District Court for the

Western District of Texas, Case No. SA-030-CA-0832-RF. If the examiner requires additional information regarding this litigation, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that such information can be provided.

Dated: November 25, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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